

(Washington, DC)- Congresswoman Gwen Moore announced that she has secured \$8.88 million in federal funding for Wisconsin's Fourth Congressional District in the transportation and highway funding bill (H.R. 3) passed by the House of Representatives today. Among the projects funded are the completion of the Milwaukee Intermodal Terminal Project and the reconstruction of a portion of State Highway 181. Additionally, funds will be dedicated to improvements to roads in St. Francis and to West Silver Spring Avenue, and for the development of pedestrian and bicycle bridges underneath the Holton Street Viaduct and over State Highway 100.

"In an increasingly global economy, we need to keep the Milwaukee area competitive, and one way to help attract and retain jobs is to ensure we have well-maintained, efficient, up-to-date transportation systems," said Congresswoman Moore. "This funding will not only provide for necessary upgrades, construction, and renovation, but these projects will mean much needed jobs for local workers and some economic stimulus for our area."

Congresswoman Moore obtained \$3.76 million for the Milwaukee Intermodal Terminal Project which will create a gateway to Milwaukee where regional rail, Greyhound Bus, and other transit operators can more effectively serve those traveling to Mitchell Airport, downtown, and the surrounding suburbs across southeastern Wisconsin. Funding will be used for a major renovation of the Milwaukee Amtrak Station and the existing train shed as well as the Greyhound terminal. The work will allow for usage by a greater number of commuters through renovation of the terminals, creation of additional parking options, and platform upgrades for both Amtrak and Greyhound operations.

Another \$3.6 million secured by Moore will be used to reconstruct a section of State Highway 181 between Florist Avenue and the Milwaukee County line. Known as 76th Avenue to many residents, Highway 181 is a major thoroughfare in Milwaukee. Reconstructing its six lanes, upgrading its signal lighting, providing new and easier to read traffic signs, and other improvements will reduce congestion and increase safety.

Congresswoman Moore secured an additional \$640,000 to make improvements to a suspended pedestrian/bicycle bridge underneath the existing Holton Street Viaduct. The funds will be used to construct a mid-span stairway that connects to the riverwalk on the north bank of the Milwaukee River, rehabilitation of the existing wooden train trestle with a stairway that connects to North Commerce Street, and much needed landscaping at the approaches. These additional entrances to the bridge will allow for the estimated 200 to 300 commuter trips that are expected

to take place per day plus numerous other recreational trips across the bridge.

Moore also obtained \$320,000 for various traffic improvements in St. Francis to alleviate increased traffic due to the long-term construction on the Marquette Interchange. Major access routes in St. Francis can become overloaded with vehicles since they are often used by drivers attempting to bypass the current interchange construction. Among other uses, the funding will help to create a system for emergency vehicles to automatically preempt traffic lights in order to increase their response time, especially to accidents which can increase gridlock. Additionally, the award can be used to widen East Howard Avenue which could otherwise become a bottleneck when I-94 traffic backs up. Traffic signal, signing, and pavement marking upgrades can be used to facilitate better traffic flow and keep trucks in their designated truck routes. Lastly, the funding could be used to do analysis of the current traffic light timing and make changes if necessary to keep traffic moving more efficiently.

West Silver Spring Avenue will also receive \$320,000 for roadway rehabilitation with streetscape improvements between N. 27th Street and N. 68th Street, creating an appealing gateway into the Silver Spring commercial corridor. These changes-including intersection and crosswalk improvements, signage, median and street landscaping, lighting enhancement, and bus shelters-will decrease traffic by increasing pedestrian and bicycle use, provide a link for pedestrians and bicyclists to recreational facilities, slow traffic, and increase safety. These improvements will greatly enhance transportation in this neighborhood and are crucial to the economic development of the Havenwoods neighborhood, an area that provides shopping, restaurants, and entertainment to Milwaukee residents.

Finally, \$240,000 was secured by Congresswoman Moore for the construction of a pedestrian and bicycle bridge across State Highway 100 near the 1800 block of S. 108th Street in West Allis. With over 75,000 motor vehicles traveling on State Highway 100 each day, pedestrian and bicycle crossings are difficult and unsafe for either commuter or recreational pedestrians or bikers. The bridge will serve an essential local and regional function as part of the Cross Town Connector Route, a multi-modal pathway that will extend five miles across the entire city east to west, passing by several schools, some of the Milwaukee's largest employers, and several city buildings and gathering places. The Route, which is part of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's (SEWRPC) Regional Bicycle Plan 2010, will effectively link the Lakefront, Milwaukee County, Waukesha County, and points west to Madison through connection to other trails.

H.R. 3 reauthorizes the federal highway, transit, and highway safety programs for the next six years. The bill passed the House last night and is expected to pass the Senate today before

going to the President's desk for his signature.

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